

Mary is vigorously involved in the community, including being an active participant in poetry readings throughout the county. She has collaborated with visual artists, sculptors, musicians and dancers. Additionally, she has been a professor at California State University, Channel Islands since it first opened its doors in 2002.

I am confident that Mary's talents and passion for the art will be reflected positively in her new position. I am pleased to join with the Ventura County Arts Council and the people of Ventura County in congratulating our first Poet Laureate, Mary Kay Rummel.

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HONORING MASTER SERGEANT  
JAMES M. SHINARD, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably dedicated and ambitious Army veteran, who has over 28 years of service to his country, Master Sergeant James M. Shinard, Sr.

Master Sergeant Shinard was born December 24, 1963 in Bolton, MS. He began his career in the armed forces in July 1985. Advancing through a number of military schools of training, Master Sergeant Shinard quickly advanced in rank from student to Squad Leader by January 1986. While serving as Team Leader, he was a part of the 1/17 Infantry Battalion 2 ID Camp Casey in Korea. As a Squad Leader, he was a part of the 155th Infantry Brigade Mississippi during Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991 and 87th Division Camp Shelby, Mississippi as a soldier during Iraqi Freedom from 2003 to 2010.

In addition to his active duty service with the Army, Master Sergeant Shinard performed with the Mississippi Army National Guard 155th Brigade (Mechanized) in Brookhaven, MS and with the United States Army Reserve as Observer Controller with the 3/346 Regt Battalion, 87th Division at Camp Shelby Mississippi, cumulatively from 1989 to 2003.

Throughout his service, he has been promoted four times to his current rank as Master Sergeant, promoted April 15, 2009 in the Army Reserve.

Throughout his 28 years of service, Master Sergeant Shinard has received numerous decorations and badges. Among those received are; the Humanitarian Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star), and Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with "M" Device and 20-Year Silver Hourglass). His present assignment is Mobilization/Readiness NCO, 412 Theater Engineer Command (TPU) in Vicksburg, MS. Currently, Master Sergeant Shinard is also pursuing an educational degree at Belhaven University, which he plans to complete in June 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Master Sergeant James M. Shinard, Sr. for his unwavering dedication and service as a respected veteran for his family, local community, and country.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH  
BIRTHDAY OF EVELYN KEISER

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to rise today and recognize Mrs. Evelyn Keiser on the occasion of her 90th birthday, which was on January 12, 2014.

Evelyn was born Evelyn Cahn in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1924. She graduated from Temple University with a bachelor of science degree in Medical Technology, one of only a few women in what was then a predominately male field of study. As a military wife, she traveled throughout the United States where her education and ambition for the medical field led to her employment in several hospitals and medical labs.

After World War II, she returned to Philadelphia and opened her own medical lab, which she operated for more than 12 years. As the demands of motherhood increased, Evelyn sold her medical lab and embarked on a rewarding teaching career. She joined the Franklin School of Sciences and led the Medical Sciences and Lab Technology programs. In 1961, she moved to South Florida to head the medical program at Charron-Williams College in Fort Lauderdale.

In 1977, with her son Dr. Arthur Keiser, she opened the Keiser School on Oakland Park Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale with one student and 2,400 square feet of classrooms.

The Keiser School name progression from Keiser Institute of Technology (1982) to Keiser College (1986) and Keiser University (2006) reflects milestones that include new degree programs, multiple branch campuses, accreditation achievements, and the addition of the Graduate School offering Master's degrees.

In 1981, another dream of hers became a reality when the Medical Laboratory Technician program was added to the Keiser School course offerings. Evelyn assumed the teaching and faculty development responsibilities. Under her direction, the program received accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, confirming the highest quality in medical laboratory academics and training.

More than 25 years later, although no longer teaching, she continues to advise faculty and serve as an advocate for students.

Nearly three decades later, Evelyn is still active in the university, serving as Chairwoman of the Board of Advisors. At 90 years young, and 37 years after co-founding Keiser University, she is often the first on campus each morning.

Throughout her lifelong career in medical labs and in higher education, Evelyn has been awarded honors too numerous to list, including "Teacher of the Year" and "Educator of the Year." In February 2004, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Beijing University, citing her commitment to educational articulation agreements between China and the United States.

To the faculty and administration of Keiser University, Evelyn Keiser sets the example that all students deserve the highest quality of academic instruction. As a result, the University's top teaching honor awarded to faculty members that have excelled in a proactive

teaching approach focused on successful learning outcomes is entitled, "The Evelyn C. Keiser Teaching Excellence Award."

Today, Keiser University serves 20,000 students on 15 Florida campuses and internationally, as well as offers approximately 90 doctoral through associate degrees, and employs nearly 3,500 staff and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great privilege of knowing Evelyn Keiser for over 30 years. She has been a wonderful friend to me. I am so happy to be able to honor her on the occasion of her 90th birthday, and wish her many more years of happiness and success.

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CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER  
MILLER FOR STUDIES IN THE  
CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Christopher Miller, a constituent of mine from Southlake, TX, on studying the Arabic language in Meknes, Morocco, under the Critical Language Scholarship Program.

The Critical Language Scholarship program was established in 2006 as part of the National Security Language Initiative. This interagency effort was formed with recognition of the need for our future diplomatic and intelligence personnel to learn languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, and Chinese. It provides an intensive regimen of study at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels for both undergraduate and graduate students. The program goes beyond just language and provides cultural experiences by immersion in the host country.

It was a pleasure to receive the U.S. State Department's announcement that one of my constituents, Christopher Miller, had successfully participated in the Critical Language Scholarship Program this past summer. Acceptance is highly competitive, and so I commend his studying Advanced Arabic in Meknes. Christopher's success is a testament to dedication, skill, and hard work; and I look forward to his accomplishing great things in any endeavor that he pursues in life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Christopher Miller on his studies in the Critical Language Scholarship Program.

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TRIBUTE TO CORONA CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD RECIPIENT BUD  
GORDON

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make